

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 131ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(2006-2010) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2010
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM,
GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (41)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (40)

The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice),
Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications (Absent – performing the
functions of Office of the President)

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Health

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),
Minister of Foreign Affairs

*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Agriculture (Absent – on leave)

/...2

***Non-elected Minister**

2.

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),
Minister of Public Service

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture,
Youth and Sport

The Hon. B. H. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

**The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

*The Hon. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

The Hon. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Albert A. Atkinson, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

/...3

***Non-Elected Minister**
****Elected Member from the United Force**

3.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

***Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Water

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Dr. Vishwa Deva Budhram Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame Gilbert, M.P.

Mr. Lloyd J. Pereira, J.P., M.P.

Members of the Opposition (28)

(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

***Non-elected Parliamentary Secretary

4.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Ms Cheryl Sampson, M.P.

Mr. Dave Danny, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Ernest Barnabas Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Absent)

Dr. John Austin, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms. Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/
Upper Berbice) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Ms Dawn Hastings, M.P. (Absent)

5.

(ii) Alliance for Change (5)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

OFFICERS (2)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms Hermina Gilgeours, Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS –

By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) The Audited Financial Statements for the Bauxite Industry Development Company Limited for the years ended 31st December, 2002 and 2003.

(Circulated)

- (ii) The Audited Financial Statements for the Aroaima Mining Company Limited for the years ended 31st December, 2002 to 2005 and for the period 1st January, 2006 to 31st March, 2006.

(Circulated)

- (iii) The Audited Financial Statements for the Linden Mining Enterprise for the years ended 31st December, 2002 to 2003 and for the period 1st January, 2004 to 8th December, 2004.

(Circulated)

- (iv) The Audited Financial Statements for the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation for the year ended 31st December, 2002 and for the period 1st January, 2003 to 14th November, 2003.

(Circulated)

- (v) The Guyana National Newspapers Limited Annual Reports for the years ended 31st December, 2002 to 2006.

(Circulated)

- (vi) The Audited Financial Statements for the National Edible Oil Company Limited for the years ended 31st December, 2002 to 2006 and for the period 1st January, 2007 to 30th November, 2007.

(Circulated)

/...7

7.

- (vii) The Audited Financial Statements for the Guyana Television Broadcasting Company Limited for the years ended 31st December, 2002 to 2003 and for the period 1st January, 2004 to 29th February, 2004.

(Circulated)

- (viii) The Guyana Oil Company Limited Annual Reports for the years ended 31st December, 2002 to 2009.

(Circulated)

- (ix) The Mid-Year Report 2010.

(Circulated)

By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

- (x) The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Regulations 2010 – No. 4 of 2010.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Reply

**NON-RECEIPT OF GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION TO CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES
IN REGION NO. 6**

Member Asking: Dr. John Austin, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Could the Hon. Minister of Local Government and Regional Development inform this National Assembly why, as at 12th July, 2010, the following Municipalities did not receive their Government Subvention for latter part of 2009 and first part of 2010:

- The Municipality of New Amsterdam for the latter part of 2009 and first part of 2010;

/...8

8.

- The Municipalities of Rose Hall and Corriverton for the first part of 2010.

(Notice Paper No. 489(Q341 Opp316) published on 2010-08-04)

Answers

1. The Municipality of New Amsterdam received a first tranche on its subvention of \$10 million for 2009 in that same year. The final tranche was released in June, 2010. The delay was due to the Council's late submission of its financial Statement to the Auditor General. The submission of the statement is a condition for releasing final payment.
2. The Municipalities of Corriverton, Rose Hall and New Amsterdam received their releases of \$4m, \$4m and \$5m respectively for the year 2010 in September of 2010.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Introduction and First Readings

1. **JUDICIAL REVIEW BILL 2010 – Bill No. 17/2010**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for an application to the High Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature for relief by way of judicial review and for related matters.

2. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE BILL 2010 – Bill No. 18/2010**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

/...9

9.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the mediation of disputes as an alternative to litigation.

3. **CONTEMPT OF COURT BILL 2010 – Bill No. 19/2010**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to define and regulate the law with respect to contempt of Court and related matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - TRAINING SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 12/2010

published on 2010-08-05

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Training Schools Act.

(Read a first time on 2010-08-05)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Mrs. Latchmin Punalall

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

10.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 5 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Training Schools (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - JUVENILE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 13/2010
published on 2010-08-05

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following
Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Juvenile Offenders Act.

(Read a first time on 2010-08-05)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - CRIMINAL LAW (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No.

14/2010 published on 2010-08-05

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Criminal Law (Offences) Act.

(Read a first time on 2010-08-05)

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.15 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.25 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

12.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The Minister of Home Affairs

Thereafter the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl moved the following amendment which was put and negatived:

Clause 2 (1) (c)-

Insert the words ‘hijacking and piracy’ as an additional offence.

Clause 2 was then put and carried.

Clause 3 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Criminal Law Offences (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 4 - INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 15/2010 published on 2010-08-05

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act.

(Read a first time on 2010-08-09)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill 2010 was read a third time and passed as printed.

MOTION

**ITEM 5 - AFFIRMATION OF THE PUBLIC ELECTRICITY SUPPLY
(AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2010 – NO. 3 OF 2010**

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 70 of the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1999, affirms the Public Electricity Supply (Amendment) Regulations 2010 – No. 3 of 2010, made under Section 70 of the Electricity Sector Reform Act 1999 and published in an Extraordinary Copy of the Official Gazette dated 3rd August, 2010.

(Notice Paper No. 490 (M151 Govt 92) published on 2010-08-05)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

The Minister of Labour

Thereafter the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.42 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 21st October, 2010.

.....
HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

14th October, 2010.